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Lynne Mattocks Lucas

CBC Newsletter

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

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Volume 51 April 2005 Number 2

Blue Ridge Splendor—Blowing Rock, NC

April 29-May 1 *By Lori Martin*

Join us as we take a few days to slow down and relax in one of the most beautiful places on earth! Spring in the Blue Ridge Mountains never fails to renew your spirit and make memories that last a lifetime. We, of course, will be searching the trees for warblers, vireos, and other migrants, but how could we possibly not stop to take in the beautiful wildflowers, the freshly emerged butterflies, and the breath-taking views?

Field trip destinations include a huge range of habitats that include rocky outcroppings, spruce-fir forests, old-fields, marshes, waterfalls, old-growth forests, and open water. Therefore our bird list for the weekend could include such birds as Peregrine Falcon, Red Crossbill, Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, Black-billed Cuckoo, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, numerous shorebirds—and who knows, maybe we'll find another King Rail in Valle Crucis!

The meeting will be headquartered at the Blowing Rock Conference Center (1442 Goforth Road, Blowing Rock, NC 28605; 828-295-7813). To reach the Center, if coming from the south, turn right onto Goforth Road just past the Green Park Inn on Hwy 321N in Blowing Rock. If coming from the north, turn left onto Goforth Road just before the Green Park Inn on Hwy 321S. The road is a bit narrow and winds through the golf course. Keep straight (bearing to the right at mile 1.1) to stay on Goforth, and the Center is 1.3 miles on the right. We will have the entire facility to bird and socialize in for the weekend! Room rates are $70 per night for single or double occupancy. There are also three cabins available. Each has two bedrooms with a rate of $140 per night. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or advanced payment of a first night's room by April 11, 2005. Accommodations are on a first come, first serve basis and may fill up quickly. Other hotels in the area are the Green Park Inn (828-295-3141) and the Days Inn of Blowing Rock (828-295-4422).

The Conference Center also offers buffet style meals—and is quite good! They've offered a complete package for us at $41.50 each for the entire weekend! This includes dinner Friday evening, breakfast Saturday morning, a boxed lunch Saturday afternoon, dinner Saturday evening, and breakfast Sunday morning. The meals can also be purchased separately: $6.50 for each breakfast (beginning at 6 am); $7.50 for each boxed lunch; and $10 for each dinner (beginning at 5 pm). Pre-registration for the meals is required, so register for the meals when you book your room.

Registration for the meeting begins Thursday night at 7 pm in the lobby of the Center. Our featured speaker for the Friday evening meeting will be Curtis Smalling, who will present to us "Conservation of Birds in the Southern Blue Ridge: Issues, Opportunities, and Challenges" to get us thinking about ways our birding can do a lot of good for the habitats and species we love. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm. Saturday night, be prepared to have fun and laugh!! We're going to break away from the norm and try our hand at a "Name That Bird" fashion show, among other things! You'll never know what you'll be missing—unless you're there! The Saturday night meeting will be at 8:00 pm. Both meetings will have a social an hour before the meeting in the reception area. Look forward to seeing you this spring in the Blue Ridge!

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Charleston, SC — September 30-October 2, 2005

Virginia Beach — Winter 2006

Cold, But Fun in Atlantic Beach!

By Judy Murray

The CBC meeting in Atlantic Beach was a success because of the help of many folks. Many thanks to John Fussell for organizing the field trips, leading five(!) of them, and giving a talk on Friday night!!

Dana working the registration table and members enjoying the social. Photo by Dan Chambers

Many thanks to Dana Harris, our registration person, for her help in the planning and the smooth operation of the meeting. Thanks also to Mike Tove for his splendid talk on the aging of gulls Saturday night. I was all set to go out and see lots of gulls on Sunday, but got slowed down because of rain Sunday morning.

The weather didn't cooperate (or did, depending on what kind of bird you were seeking). With the wind and cold all weekend the sparrows were really hunkered down, but some folks managed to get seven on one trip: Clay-colored, Savannah, Song, Lincoln's, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned! The gulls were out in good numbers, but not a lot of variety. Some folks got to see the Iceland Gull spotted by Mike Tove at Fort Macon. Other gulls seen over the weekend were: Laughing, Black-headed, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, Herring, Lesser Black-backed, and Great Black-backed. Razorbills were spotted at the rocks at Ft. Macon and at all the piers throughout the weekend. Sunday morning field trips were pretty much a bust with all the rain, but I heard that John Ennis and a few brave souls endured the elements to spot the Sharp-tailed Sparrows at the causeway into Beaufort and other birds around the piers and Ft. Macon.

Birders were treated to flocks of Northern Gannets during the weekend. Photo by Harry D. Sell

The total count of birds was 166 species, which was good considering the weather. The Whooping Cranes in Jones County near Clancy Ballenger's farm were a treat even though they are not countable. Maybe they'll be back again next year. Thanks to all you folks who turned out to brave the elements—I hope everyone had a wonderful time. I sure did. Looking forward to warblers and our spring meeting in the mountains—hope to see you there too. (Editor's note: And, THANKS to Judy Murray, for all of her work in coordinating the Atlantic Beach meeting!!)

^^^

Just Outside the Window *By Donna Slyce*

Fast Forward to Spring "Spee spee spee" sounds a nasally whine from over my head. It is late November. I am standing under a large sycamore tree at a public boat landing on the Saluda River in Lexington County, South Carolina. It takes me a second to recognize the author of the sound. It is, of course, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. I am accustomed to Blue-gray Gnatcatchers as an almost exclusively summer resident species. Hearing one in early winter disoriented me for a moment.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Photo by Harry D. Sell

I lived in the Piedmont long enough that I have winter "playlists" and summer "playlists" of the bird sounds I am likely to hear. Many of the summer resident birds, the breeding birds of the region, are not present in winter. Many of the winter resident birds, the overwintering birds of the region, are not present in summer. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are found in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina in small numbers in winter and are presumed to be present in the Piedmont of South Carolina in winter. Personally, I never encountered Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in winter in the Piedmont, so the species was relegated to my summer repertoire of bird sounds. They arrive in early April in Fairfield County, with an early date of April 2. From April to August-September, I could hear and instantly recognize the "spee"ing of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Expose me to the sound of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in November and I fumble for a moment to come up with a name.

It is mid-February. I am in the immediate coastal plain of South Carolina, just far enough inland to encounter only fresh water. "Spee spee spee" sounds a nasally whine from a smaller deciduous tree along the edges of a hammock of trees in a wildlife refuge managed to provide wintering habitat for ducks and other species associated strongly with water. But I've already seen the long black with white outer tail feathers tail of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, so I know now who it is instantly. A subsequent trip through the refuge that day accumulates six or seven Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, apparently just arriving in South Carolina from overwintering sites, according to a knowledgeable local birder.

It is a pleasure to experience Blue-gray Gnatcatchers a whole six weeks before I can expect them to dance and fidget through the unfurling leaves of the sweetgum and tupelo trees in my backyard, to hear their nasal voices announcing to the rest of the backyard that the "half-pint mockingbird" is back. Hearing them before they arrive in my backyard is like fast forwarding to spring before migration, an earful of the sound of spring when winter continues just a little too long.

New Members

Kathryn & Dennis Allen-Brevard, NC
Michele & Marvin Barg-Pisgah Forest, NC
James R Craig-Emerald Isle, NC
Dave Hardin -Newton, NC
Katawba Valley Land Trust-Lancaster, SC
Richard Leppingwell-Hendersonville, NC
Andrew Hines-Hickory, NC
Jill R. Moye-Spring Hope, NC
Ken Scott-Beaufort, SC
Patrick Murphy-Durham, NC
Rose O'Mahony-Chapel Hill, NC
Ellen Osmanski-Beaufort, SC
Barbara Pigott-Gloucester, NC
Bob Repoley & Barbara English-Burnsville, NC
Donald Rote-Plymouth, NC
Melissa Rote-Greenville, SC
Randy Senzig-Raleigh, NC
Penny Soares-Huntersville, NC
John Spaulding-Murfueesboro, NC
Joseph & Aimee Tomacho-Weaverville, NC
Viola & Vance Walker-Fayetteville, NC

Deceased

Mary Reed-Asheville, NC

To all members, if you move, please notify the Headquarters Secretary with your new address in order to continue delivery of the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat*.

Nominating and Membership News

At the Carolina Bird Club's spring meeting in Blowing Rock, NC, the Nominating Committee (Steve Patterson, Dana Harris, and Lori Martin) will present the following slate of nominees to the members for election:

President -- **Stephen Harris**
ENC Vice-President -- **John Ennis**
Secretary -- **Kathleen O'Grady**
Treasurer -- **Bruce Smithson**

ENC Member-at-Large -- **Kim Horstman**
ENC Member-at-Large -- **Ed Toon**
WNC Member-at-Large -- **Gail Lankford**
SC Member-at-Large -- **Bob Ellis**

Also at the Blowing Rock meeting, members will **vote on proposed amendment changes to the Bylaws:**

a. Amend Article II. Membership and Dues to add a new item 2.g. Associate Life (in the same household with a life member).

b. Amend Article III. Member Voting Privileges to add a new item 1.g. Associate Life.

c. Amend Article X. Publications to add new paragraphs 5 and 6 to read:

> 5. A website will be maintained to provide information to members and to the public about the Club and about birding in the Carolinas.
>
> 6. The Executive Committee shall determine editorial policies for the website and shall appoint its editor. The editor shall serve at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Comments: The two first two proposed amendments would allow spouses or others living in the same household as a life member to join for life at a reduced rate. (The Executive Committee is looking favorably at $100 payable in four annual installments for this category.) The third amendment would correct an oversight so that the website editor is subject to the control of the Executive Committee, just as are our *The Chat* and *CBC Newsletter* editors.

CBC Directory

It's been five years since the last directory was published in 2000, so it's time for a new directory! Please contact Tullie Johnson, our CBC Headquarters Secretary, with an update if your address, phone number, or email has changed in the past five years. The CBC address and Tullie's number and email are on the back page of the newsletter. Check to make sure the address on your *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat* labels are correct. You can also go to the CBC website (www.carolinabirdclub.org) to send in updates or corrections. Our goal is to have a new directory by the end of the summer. Thanks!

Website Services Appreciated

By Gail Lankford

Russ Tyndall voluntarily created our website in the fall of 1997, and remained its editor until shortly after he resigned on July 5, 2004. Kent Fiala is the new editor. The website editor was added to the Executive Committee as an ex-officio member by a By-Laws amendment on May 1, 2004.

When Russ started the website, a small minority of CBC members were using the internet. Now a large majority have access. Russ reported that during the first fifteen weeks of 2004, the site had almost 16,000 visitors. He expanded the site over the years with links to other clubs/birding resources, and to detailed information about CBC. He also added the popular photo gallery.

Russ did an excellent job of running the site and expanding it to its current excellence. He should be personally thanked by all members for this valuable service to CBC. In addition, he is a great field trip leader with excellent birding skills. He and his wife, Patricia, currently hold the Big Year record for NC. Russ has also compiled NC and SC historical bird sightings into his own Avendex computer program, a valuable tool for CBC members. Having also served as secretary to the club in the past, Russ has indeed been an active and indispensable member of Carolina Bird Club, and we hope he continues his involvement for years to come. Thank you Russ!

CBC Bonus Trips

Low Country Birding Special

April 16 *By John Cely*

Few things are finer than Charleston in spring. Even when the birding is poor, the azalea gardens, the smell of salt air, and good seafood at the end of the day makes any visit worthwhile.

This one day Saturday Special will focus on several Low Country specialties—Painted Bunting, Bachman's Sparrow, and Swallow-tailed Kite—with some shorebirds, wading birds, and hopefully lots of migrants thrown in. We will headquarter in Mt. Pleasant, rise early Saturday and head for the Francis Marion National Forest to catch the Bachman's Sparrow singing on territory. For those who haven't heard the beautiful song of this pinewoods skulker, you are in for a treat. From there we will visit a Forest Service site on the east side of US 17 known for supporting a healthy population of Painted Buntings, which should be just arriving in South Carolina this time of April. And if we're lucky, we can top the morning off with a view of a Swallow-tailed Kite or two further up the Forest.

We'll check out a few other birdy places in the Forest after sardines and crackers, and depending on if the tide is cooperating, head back to Mt. Pleasant in the afternoon to the Pitt Street causeway to check out the shorebird population (hopefully including a Marbled Godwit or two) and other waterbirds. This is a good place to study shorebirds and get acquainted with them, or reacquainted, for those of you from the land of high elevations.

There are more than a half-dozen affordable motels in the Mt. Pleasant area and I suggest you check out www.hotels-guaranteed.com or call 1-888-603-5303 to get a reservation. The last time I looked the best rates were in the range of $62-$80 a night. You need to book ASAP as this is a very popular time of year for the Holy City and rooms will fill quickly.

At this time our Saturday morning rendezvous spot, most likely at McDonalds, has not yet been determined, but I will notify everyone after sign up. We should be able to handle at least 15 people, especially if we carpool. To sign up, drop me a line at jecely@sc.rr.com or call at 803-782-7450, before sending in your $10 registration.

Santee NWR - May 21 *By Bob Wood*

If you've only birded Santee National Wildlife Refuge with a scope in the cold, join us on Saturday, May 21 with your binoculars to see breeding warblers and wading birds galore. Santee offers spectacular spring scenery with its cypress swamps, open water, and old farm fields. Headquarters will be Clarks Inn, (114 Bradford Blvd., 803-854-2141), but Santee offers many other inexpensive motels as well. Just make your reservation now as Santee's golfers, bass fishermen, and outlet shoppers will be clambering for rooms that weekend, too. We will meet at the McDonald's in Santee, SC (on Old Hwy. 6 near I-95), at 7:30 am and drive over to the Bluff Unit of Santee NWR. (Or, meet us at the Refuge Headquarters off I-95, Exit 102, at 8 am.) We'll hit the Cuddo Unit later that morning. Leader: Bob Wood. Limit is 20 birders and costs $10. Contact Bob at 803-475-5660 or wood29020@comporium.net to sign up before sending in your registration money.

Special Carolina Bird Club Venture to Churchill and Southern Manitoba, Canada May 29 - June 7

By Simon Thompson

Churchill, a small town on the Hudson Bay in Manitoba, Canada, started out as a fur-trapping and trading company in the early 1700s, and grew into a small port when the railway came through in 1929. Nowadays Churchill has become famous among birders for its combination of spectacular migration of birds towards the Arctic and because of easy accessibility to the northern breeding species.

A visit to the bleak tundra of Churchill will be a highlight of our visit to Canada, but there's much more to offer the visitor. Here too are wide-open

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Churchill continued from previous page
prairies, a vast wilderness of mountains and lakes, and bird-rich wetlands. Our visit will coincide with the peak of migration, and we should see many birds passing through on their way further north. These should include Hudsonian Godwit and Red-necked Phalarope and the beautiful Little Gull. Ross' Gull has become difficult to see over the past few years, but we still have a very good chance to see one. Some other birds we hope to see are Spruce Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, Connecticut and Mourning Warblers, Mountain Bluebird, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, LeConte's and Harris's Sparrows, and Great Gray Owl. The birding here is unforgettable and the variety of habitats from Arctic waters to boreal forests and seemingly endless prairies will give us a chance to see an excellent array of northern and boreal species in this spell of Arctic springtime.

Cost of the Churchill Venture is $2,650 per person from Winnipeg, based on double occupancy. (Single supplement $275.) Price includes: all accommodations, internal air, van, boat and train transportation, all meals, service charges, entrance fees and gratuities (except for leader/guide), information packet and bird checklist, leader/guide service.

Please contact Simon Thompson at the Ventures office for more information or to register: Ventures Birding and Nature Tours, PO Box 1095 Skyland, NC 28776; 828-253-4247; Travel@birdventures.com; or www.birdventures.com. Your place will be reserved as soon as a deposit of $200 payable to Ventures, Inc. has been received. You can pay by check or call the office with your VISA or MasterCard number. Trip is limited to 10 participants.

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2005 Ventures *By Simon Thompson*

The new 2005 Ventures brochure is out and offers a good selection of birding trips from day trips in the Carolinas to overseas Ventures. Some of the upcoming trips are listed below:

February 26 — South Holston Reservoir, TN

March 19 — Sparrows & Open Country Birds, Townville, SC

April 23 — Early Spring Birding, Asheville, NC

April 23 — Congaree Swamp, SC

April 28, May 2 and 7 — Stecoah Gap 1, 2 and 3

May 11-15 — Crane Creek, Ohio

May 18 — Spring Warbler Workshop, Asheville, NC

May 25 — Bird Songs Workshop, Asheville, NC

May 27-29 — Mt. Rogers, Virginia

June 10-19 — Tiputini Rainforests and Tandayapa Valley, Ecuador

July 11-19 — Maine

Information on all of these Ventures is on the Ventures website www.birdventures.com or you can call the office at 1-828-253-4247 for further details and a 2005 Brochure.

Woodpeckermania 2004

By John Ennis

My birding goal for 2004 was to be less goal oriented. Quickly failing that, I decided that one of my goals would be to see all North American woodpecker species, all twenty-two members of the family *Picinae*.

It started as an obsession with finding a White-headed Woodpecker during a February trip to Southern California. I was successful. Soon thereafter, I read an article about the "Woodpecker Wonderland" near Sisters, Oregon in the March 2004 edition of *Winging It*. Eleven of the twelve woodpeckers that nest in Oregon can be found in this area. I decided Sisters would be my backup location to find woodpeckers I missed elsewhere.

For the White-headed, I had to hike through snow and ice about a half mile, uphill both ways, to the maintenance shop at Mount San Jacinto State Park. I heard the pecking for minutes before I found the bird. When the ranger said "dead tree", I did not know he meant the one lying on the ground. After scanning the trees, I saw movement and looked down to find the woodpecker on a fallen pine only fifty feet away.

At trip end, I still needed Williamson's Sapsucker,

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Woodpeckermania continued from previous page
Lewis' Woodpecker, lifer Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, and the Arizona and Texas specialties. By fall, I planned to set up temporary residence in Sisters if need be. Obsessions are wonderful; everyone should have a couple or three.

In August, I was fortunate to add the University of Nevada in Reno and Las Vegas as a client. I got my Three-toed Woodpecker in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness/Sisters area and the Arizona Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Madera Canyon and the Saguaro National Park as byproducts of business trips to those Nevada cities. It was my first visit to the Saguaro National Park. Awesome!

In early November, I attended the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in Harlingen and picked up fifty plus Golden-fronted Woodpeckers as the last nail in the coffin of this obsession. John 22, *Picinae* 0!

My 2004 Gila Woodpecker was fairly rare. There is a small colony of Gila Woodpeckers established in the palm trees of a park in Brawley, California, far from the Saguaro cacti of Arizona.

Bruce Smithson, Danny Thorpe, and others from the Lower Cape Fear Bird Club helped me find my lifer Black-baeked Woodpecker near Mono Lake. It was a classic pose! Two birds side-by-side, one a back view and the other a side profile. It was a bird guide picture, if my camera had not been in the SUV.

I saw two Three-toed Woodpeckers at a burned out camp at Round Lake near Sisters. I watched the second fly behind a large tree and I moved in position, expecting her to come around the trunk. She did and I got a look in direct sunlight from five feet. I could count the toes! Yes, my camera was in the rental car.

The full title of the Sisters' article is "Woodpecker Wonderland: There's a whole lotta flakin' going on in Oregon's Eastern Cascades" by Steve Shunk. He assisted me by email with locating the Three-toed Woodpecker. Steve's company is Paradise Birding (steve@paradisebirding.com).

My favorite bird was a little female Arizona Woodpecker. I was sweating bullets over missing this species after being shut out around Madera Canyon for a couple of days. She popped up on a tree in front of me; I wanted to hug her!

There was virtually no luck involved. I knew where to find the birds, had backup locations, and the determination to stay as long in Sisters or Arizona as needed to complete the list.

What was involved was the help of others—the ranger at Mount San Jacinto, my fellow bird club members, and Steve Shunk—plus money and many frequent traveler points. The goal achieved, I have decided my goal for 2005 will be....errrr...to be less goal oriented.

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International Migratory Bird Day May 14, 2005

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is held annually on the second Saturday in May (but you can celebrate birds anytime!) to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. The theme for 2005 is *Clear the Way! Reducing Bird Deaths from Collisions.* Cell towers, wind turbines, plate glass windows, power lines, and other human-made structures contribute to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of birds each year. IMBD edueation materials and art will explore the positive ways citizens, conservation groups, and industries are working to reduce the threat. The IMBD 2005 artist is David Sibley. For information on events, educational materials, and sales items go to http://birds.fws.gov/imbd, www.birdday.org, or www.birdiq.com. You can also call 970-513-7017 or 703-358-2318 for information.

One local IMBD event will be held at Goose Creek State Park near Washington, NC on May 14. There will be bird identification hikes, a bird coloring contest, a Birdathon, and more. Birdathon teams will compete for prizes for the most bird species observed within the park during the day. For more information contact Goose Creek State Park at 252-758-0077, or to register your team for the Birdathon call Ernie Marshall at 252-758-0077.

Blowing Rock Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 12. Wagner Property. This private property is located just a half-hour south of Blowing Rock in Happy Valley, NC. We have permission from the owners to bird the special habitat. It is a large marsh with at least ten Green Heron nests and the potential for American Bittern, which has been spotted here several times in spring. There will also be loads of orioles, tanagers, vireos, and warblers. This will be a good spot for Yellow-breasted Chat and other old-field species.

Trips 2, 13, 23. EB Jeffress Park. We'll walk the Cascades Nature Trail at Jeffress Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway where we'll have a nice view of the waterfall that plunges into the Yadkin River. Birds here should include a good assortment of warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Blue-headed Vireo. At the nearby Lewis Fork and Stoney Fork Valley Overlooks, we could see Cerulean Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, and American Redstart.

Trips 3, 6, 14, 18. Bass and Trout Lakes. These two small lakes, located in Moses Cone Memorial Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, offer some of the best birding along the Parkway. As we casually stroll along the carriage paths, we will be rewarded with birds such as Canada, Black-and-white, Hooded, Black-throated Blue, and Black-throated Green Warblers. This is also one of the few places left in NC where Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are known to nest. We should see some lingering waterfowl on the lakes and perhaps a singing Brown Creeper as well.

Trips 4, 21. Sim's Pond Overlook. We'll walk the loop trail at Sim's Pond for warblers and vireos. There should be several Winter Wrens in song along this easy trail. Swainson's Warbler is possible as there are very dense rhododendron thickets here, and Eastern Screech Owls nest in some of the old growth Hemlocks. We may also get a glimpse of a beaver near their lodge by the pond.

Trips 5, 17, 24. Valle Crucis Park. We'll watch along the short entrance drive for Bobolinks, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, and nesting Tree Swallows. Then we'll walk the paved trails around the pond/swamp area and look for orioles, kingbirds, warblers, vireos . . . and oh, we saw a KING RAIL in the cattails last time the CBC was here!

Trips 7, 19. Linville Falls. This spot has long been known for nesters such as Peregrine Falcon and Red Crossbill. Along with beautiful views of the falls, we should see lots of migrants, including Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Kentucky Warbler, and Acadian Flycatcher. Wildflowers will be abundant here as well, so bring your field guide!

Trips 8, 20. Julian Price Park. Tree Swallows have recently begun nesting here in the boxes around the picnic area so we should have some great views of them. We will walk the first part of the Boone Fork trail through the bog looking for Alder Flycatcher and various sparrow species. Then we'll walk around the lake for a variety of vireos, warblers, and other migrants. We may also see several beaver dams and some waterfowl.

Trips 9, 22. Rich Mountain Gap. This high elevation (3800' to 4500') pastureland, located between Rich Mountain and Snake Mountain, is a good spot for sparrows and other high-elevation breeders. We may encounter Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, Common Raven, Least Flycatcher, and Canada, Chestnut-sided, and Golden-winged Warblers. Most birds can be easily seen from the road, but there is a moderate to strenuous hike for those wanting to see Golden-wingeds and upper-elevation birds.

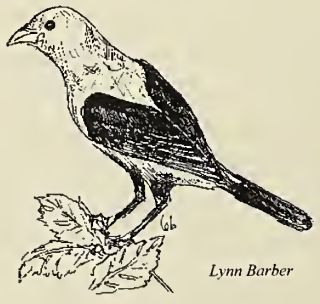
Trips 10, 16. Boone Greenway. We'll walk the myriad of trails in the greenway to find warblers and vireos and other migrants. It's also a great place to get up close and personal with a beaver! The variety of habitats—from fields, to stream borders, to woodland paths, should provide a good variety for us.

Trip 11. Conference Center Grounds. We'll casually stroll along the woodland borders and quiet streets of the Blowing Rock Conference Center. We should have a variety of warblers and vireos. This trip would be great for those who enjoy wildflowers, a slow pace, and level ground!

Trip 15, 25. Grandfather Mountain (fee). We'll walk the easy trail going up the mountain before heading up to take a peek at the feeders! We'll also head to the top and take in all the mountain's splendor, while we listen for Red Crossbill and Common Raven. There should be a good variety of birds including vireos and warblers. Admission fee (~$10) applies.

Trip 26. Flycatcher Loop. This section of NC holds a good variety of flycatcher species. Starting at Julian Price picnic area, we'll try for Alder Flycatcher. Heading north from there, we'll see Acadian and Willow Flycatchers along the New River and try for Least and Great-crested along the valleys. There will be plenty of other breeding birds and migrants too.

Trip 27. Rich Mountain Loop. We'll begin the day at Trout Lake before heading to Valle Crucis Park. We'll end the day at Rich Mountain Gap for sparrows. (See descriptions of all three destinations under half-day trips.)



Lynn Barber

Blowing Rock Field Trip Schedule

Friday, April 29

No All-day trips

Half-day morning
Trip #1 Wagner Property—7:00 am
Trip #2 EB Jeffress Park—7:20 am
Trip #3 Bass and Trout Lakes—7:30 am
Trip #4 Sim's Pond Overlook—7:40 am
Trip #5 Valle Crucis Park—7:10 am

Half-day afternoon
Trip #6 Bass and Trout Lake—12:50 pm
Trip #7 Linville Falls—12:30 pm
Trip #8 Julian Price Park—1:10 pm
Trip #9 Rich Mountain Gap—12:40 pm
Trip #10 Boone Greenway—1:00 pm
Trip #11 Conference Center Grounds—1:15 pm

Saturday, April 30

Half-day morning
Trip #12 Wagner Property—7:00 am
Trip #13 EB Jeffress Park—7:20 am
Trip #14 Bass and Trout Lakes—7:30a m
Trip #15 Grandfather Mountain (fee)—7:40 am
Trip #16 Boone Greenway—7:50 am
Trip #17 Valle Crucis Park—7:10 am

Half-day afternoon
Trip #18 Bass and Trout Lake—12:50 pm
Trip #19 Linville Falls—12:30 pm
Trip #20 Julian Price Park—1:10 pm
Trip #21 Sim's Pond Overlook—1:10 pm
Trip #22 Rich Mountain Gap—12:40 pm
Trip #23 EB Jeffress Park—1:00 pm
Trip #24 Valle Crucis Park—12:50 pm
Trip #25 Grandfather Mountain (fee)—1:00 pm

All-day
Trip #26 Flycatcher Loop—7:00 am
Trip #27 Rich Mountain Loop—7:20 am

"…. I realized that if I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes."
Charles Lindbergh

Carolina Bird Club Registration Form

Blowing Rock Meeting April 29-May 1 and Bonus Field Trips

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my check for $_____ for _____ member ($15) registration(s) and/or ____ nonmember ($20) registration(s).
Registration at the door costs $25 for everyone.

Friday trip choices # _____/_____ Saturday trip choices # _____/_____
AM/PM AM/PM

_____This is my (our) first time attending a CBC meeting.

Registration for bonus field trips costs $10/pp paid in advance.

Enclosed is my check for $_____ for _____ member(s) to participate in the **Charleston, SC April 16 trip**.
Enclosed is my check for $_____ for _____ member(s) to participate in the **Santee, SC May 21 trip**.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to: Dana Harris, 5009 Crown Point Lane, Wilmington, NC 28409.

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Upcoming CBC Bonus Trips

April 16, Charleston, SC
May 21, Santee, SC
May 29-June 7, Churchill, Manitoba
August 27, Ridge Junction Overlook, NC
September 22-26, Cape May, NJ

Spring Wings Over Water
May 12-15, 2005
252-441-8144
www.wingsoverwater.org

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803-475-5660
wood29020@comporium.net

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Rare Bird Alert: 704-332-BIRD
CBC Website: www.carolinabirdclub.org

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